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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 125  
By Davis L

A RESOLUTION To designate March 18-25, 2001, as Dale  
Earnhardt Week

WHEREAS, The Tennessee General Assembly is pleased to specially recognize those persons who have attained remarkable success and served as an inspiration to the people of this State; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his life, Dale Earnhardt was a standout in all of his endeavors; a seven-time NASCAR Winston Cup Champion, he was one of the greatest drivers in racing history; and

WHEREAS, Beginning with his Rookie of the Year campaign in 1979, Dale Earnhardt compiled an unrivalled record of accomplishment in stock car racing's pinnacle circuit, NASCAR's Winston Cup; in addition to his record seven championships, he was runner-up in the points standings three times and placed among the top ten in an astounding twenty seasons; and

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WHEREAS, During his dominating 1987 championship season, Mr. Earnhardt drove into Victory Lane eleven times and was among the first five finishers in an astounding twenty-one of twenty-nine races; and

WHEREAS, The 1998 Daytona 500 Champion, Dale Earnhardt's name is posted throughout the NASCAR record book; he established Winston Cup records for earnings, consecutive race starts, top-ten points finishes, consecutive seasons with a victory, Talladega Superspeedway victories, Daytona Speedway victories, and Winston Cup Championships, a record that he shared with fellow driving legend Richard Petty; and

WHEREAS, Among his remarkable accomplishments, Mr. Earnhardt was the first three-time Winston Cup Champion, a three-time IROC Champion, and the American Driver of the Year in 1987 and 1994; and

WHEREAS, Dale Earnhardt enjoyed tremendous success in Tennessee at the Bristol Motor Speedway; the "World's Fastest Half Mile" provided the setting for some of "the Intimidator's" greatest triumphs; and

WHEREAS, On April 1, 1979, Mr. Earnhardt claimed his first victory in Bristol's Southeastern 500, thus serving notice to the stock car racing world that a new champion was present; in the following years, he would win nine Winston Cup races at Bristol, a total surpassed only by that of Tennessean Darrell Waltrip, and the 1988 Busch Series Budweiser 200; and

WHEREAS, In 1985 and 1987, Dale Earnhardt swept the Valleydale and Busch 500s at Bristol; he was victorious in the 1987 night race despite suffering from flu which weakened him to the point that he could not even shut off his engine after entering Victory Lane; and

WHEREAS, East Tennessee racing fans will long tell the tale of Mr. Earnhardt's epic battles with Terry Labonte in 1995 and 1999 Bristol races; after finishing just behind Labonte's spinning car in 1995, "the Intimidator" avenged his previous loss in 1999 by chasing down

Labonte's Ford in the final lap and passing him to claim victory for his black and silver Chevrolet; and

WHEREAS, On the night of February 20, 2001, racing fans congregated at Bristol Motor Speedway's Victory Lane to honor the memory of Dale Earnhardt and reflect upon the unparalleled skill, stalwart devotion, and tenacious competitiveness of the great champion; and

WHEREAS, In that same spirit, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to recognize the bountiful life and magnificent career of this extraordinary athlete as we approach the March 25, 2001, Food City 500 at Bristol Motor Speedway; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we designate the week of March 18-25, 2001 as Dale Earnhardt Week and join with the citizens of Tennessee in celebrating Mr. Earnhardt's unsurpassed legacy as an athletic champion and remarkable human being.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.